Tips for Keeping Stormwater Clean

Would you

swim in any

want to

of this?

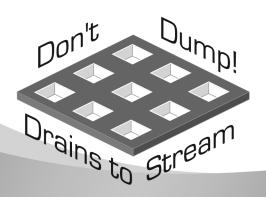
Pollutants from Cars:

Gas and Oil Antifreeze Metals Detergents

Car care tips:

- Maintain your car to prevent fluid leaks
- Recycle motor oil, antifreeze, tires, and batteries
- Use a commercial carwash that treats and/or recycles the wash water
- If you wash your car at home, wash it on the lawn so that the water can seep into the soil, and use low-phosphate detergents in small amounts





• NEVER pour or sweep ANYTHING down a storm drain!

This includes:

Pet waste

Motor oil

Paint

Litter

Leaves

Sand

 Don't block storm drains with refuse or debris

Stormwater on parking lots and streets flows into storm drains so that the pavement won't be flooded. Storm drains have underground pipes that channel the stormwater directly to a nearby water body, usually without any treatment or cleansing. So whatever flows down a storm drain comes out in a nearby water body, such as a wetland, stream, pond, or the ocean.

Using more fertilizer or pesticide than the label calls for wastes the product and doesn't help the lawn. The extra fertilizer or pesticide may wash away into a storm drain and out to a nearby wetland, stream, pond, or ocean where it can harm aquatic plants and animals.

Pollutants from Lawns:

Fertilizer

Pesticides Herbicides

Lawn care and garden tips:

- Use fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides sparingly
- Try using organic lawn care methods
- Mow 2 to 3 inches high to encourage dense growth and deter weeds
- Mulch lawn clippings and leaves
- Do not over-water your lawn
- Reduce lawn size in favor of rock gardens or natural vegetation
- Cover soil piles with tarps and replant bare areas to stop erosion

More ways that YOU can help

- Pick up after your pet and dispose of droppings in the toilet or trash
- Aim your roof downspouts away from paved surfaces or into a rain barrel
- Dispose of paint, oil, and other household chemicals at a local hazardous waste collection day
- Support community efforts to keep stormwater clean
- Coordinate a neighborhood storm drain stenciling/marking day
- Join a stream team to help care for your neighborhood stream
- Learn more about stormwater

Other Stormwater Pollutants:

Salt Sand Bacteria Chemicals

Our community performs many activities that are critical to keeping stormwater clean. Street sweepers pick up sand and winter debris so that these pollutants won't be washed into storm drains. Most storm drains have catch basins to trap heavy particles that must be cleaned out regularly by our municipal crews to keep the drains clear.

© 2006 SuAsCo Watershed Community Council all rights reserved